

NEW DISTRIBUTION AND FOOD PLANT RECORDS FOR SOME VICTORIAN BUTTERFLIES (LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIOIDEA, PAPILIONOIDEA)

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Abstract

New Victorian localities are given for *Toxidia andersoni* (Kirby), *Antipodia chaostola chares* (Waterhouse), *Papilio aegaeus aegaeus* Donovan, *Argynnina cyrila* Waterhouse & Lyell, *Hypochrysops byzos hecalius* (Boisduval), *Ogyris abrota* Westwood, *Jalmenus icilius* Hewitson, *Candalides consimilis goodingi* (Tindale), *Theclinesstes sulphitius* (Miskin), *Acacia longifolia* (Andr.) Willd. and *Acacia mearnsii* De Wild. are newly recorded as larval food plants for *Jalmenus evagoras evagoras* (Donovan) and *Jalmenus icilius* Hewitson respectively. Extension of the range of *Cephrènes augiades sperthias* (Felder) in Melbourne is noted and its larvae are recorded from bangalow palm *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* (Wendl.) Wendl. & Drude, kentia palm *Howea forsteriana* (C. Moore & F. Muell.), the exotic Senegal date palm *Phoenix reclinata* Jacq., the exotic queen palm *Arecastrum romanzoffianum* (Cham.) Becc. and the exotic Chinese windmill palm *Trachycarpus fortunei* (Hook.) Wendl.

HESPERIIDAE

Toxidia andersoni (Kirby)

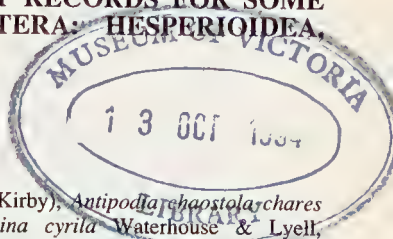
Both sexes of this species were common at the summit of Waldron Mount, 15 km NNW of Cann River on 27.i.1988. A single female was taken on Donald Knob, 15 km W of Cann River on 17.iii.1988. Dunn and Dunn (1991b) provide other records for eastern Victoria.

Antipodia chaostola chares (Waterhouse)

I have taken this species about 10 km SW of Nowa Nowa on 28.xi.1970, 20.x.1991 and 3.xi.1992 and at Anglesea on 2.xi.1990 and 12.x.1991. Previously this species has been known from the Grampians and from an area including the eastern suburbs of Melbourne (Ringwood and Heathmont) and western Gippsland (Shady Creek - N of Warragul, Moondarra, Labertouche, Upper Beaconsfield, Willow Grove, and a new colony at Tynong North discovered by A. Bishop (*pers. comm.*) on 1.xi.1990). The Nowa Nowa record thus extends the range of this species about 150 km east, whilst the Anglesea record extends the range about 140 km south-west from the Melbourne localities.

Cephrènes augiades sperthias (Felder)

Crosby (1990) reported the presence of the adults of this species at Camberwell in Melbourne, presumably introduced on home garden palms brought from the northern States. On 25.xi.1990 I caught a freshly emerged female at East Melbourne. In February 1992 further specimens were reported from Camberwell (J. Landy, *pers. comm.*) and on 14.ii.1992 I counted four larvae and one emerged pupa on a bangalow palm *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* (Wendl.) Wendl. and Drude in my East Melbourne garden. The larvae were bagged on the palm and subsequently a dead female was found in the bag on 22.iii.1992, one male on 26.iii.1992 and another male on 27.iii.1992. The remaining pupa died. On flowers in my garden, a further male was seen on 29.iii.1992 and a female on 2.iv.1992. A kentia palm *Howea forsteriana* (C. Moore & F. Muell.) in my garden was not used that



season. A single fresh female was noted at Kew on 4.v.1992 (D. Britton, *pers. comm.*).

In the following season, on 20.ii.1993 in my East Melbourne garden I noted several shelters on the bangalow palm and three larvae on the kentia palm, for the first time. A male was seen at Kew on 22.ii.1993 (D. Britton, *pers. comm.*). On 1.iii.1993 in the Fitzroy Gardens, East Melbourne, about 0.5 km from my garden, I collected two larvae from a Chinese windmill palm *Trachycarpus fortunei* (Hook.) Wendl. and noted typical larval eats on several kentia and bangalow palms and on a single queen palm *Arecastrum romanzoffianum* (Cham.) Becc. On 21.iii.1993 in the Royal Botanic Gardens, South Yarra, I observed five adults feeding at flowers and two females ovipositing on the pinnae of a Senegal date palm *Phoenix reclinata* Jacq., on which several empty larval shelters were found. There were additional empty shelters on adjacent *P. reclinata* palms. R. Buckingham (*pers. comm.*) confirmed a further population on four bangalow palms in South Yarra (0.5 km east of the Botanic Gardens) which had existed since early 1991.

It appears that this skipper is now established in Melbourne in a similar fashion to its introduction to Perth around 1977 as reported by Hutchison (1989). Petrie (1985) has recorded a similar range extension of *Cephrenes trichopepla* (Lower) in New South Wales and Hutchison (*pers. comm.*) reports this species is established at Karratha and Port Hedland W.A., where *C. augiades* has also been recorded.

PAPILIONIDAE

Papilio aegaeus aegaeus Donovan

I saw two females in my garden at Gipsy Point, in eastern Victoria, on 9.iii.1992 and on 8.iii.1993 a male flying in Mallacoota, where several residents reported seeing "large black and white" butterflies during the 1992-3 summer. These records confirm the presence of the species in eastern Victoria as earlier recorded by Clark (1940 - in Dunn and Dunn 1991a).

NYMPHALIDAE

Argynnia cyrila Waterhouse and Lyell

I have taken this species at several previously unrecorded localities in East Gippsland, including Gipsy Point (26.x.1990, 11.xi.1991), Donald Knob c. 480 m - 15 km W of Cann River (30.x.1990, 22.x.1991), Maramingo - 5 km NW of Genoa (24.x.1991), Mallacoota (27.x.1991), Cann River - 4 km SW (9.xi.1991). Hunting (1980a) records the species at Mt Raymond 294 m, 13 km east of Orbost. I have also taken the species at Tidal River, Wilson's Promontory (10.xi.1982). These records confirm the species' wide distribution in eastern Victoria and supplement the data of Dunn and Dunn (1991c).

LYCAENIDAE

Hypochrysops byzos hecalius (Boisduval)

Due to the lack of records of this subspecies in eastern Victoria (Dunn and Dunn 1991c), I report taking a single male on 31.i.1955 at about 5 km N of

Nowa Nowa c. 150 m. The adults are rarely seen and the subspecies may be more widespread than the records indicate as the food plant, *Pomaderris aspera* Sieber ex DC is common.

Ogyris abrota Westwood

Dunn and Dunn (1991b) show no records for this species in eastern Victoria. The two following records are therefore of interest. A male was taken in montane forest at Errinundra Plateau at 900 m, about 8 km SSE of Bonang, by P. and J. Horne on 8.iv.1988. This record is notable in that the species is usually found at lower altitudes (Common and Waterhouse 1981). Previously it was recorded at approximately 500 m at Kinglake West in Victoria (Quick 1972). The Horne specimen is morphologically unusual in several respects, being exceptionally large in size (approaching that of *O. genoveva*) and considerably brighter and more intense purple above. The brown ground colour of the hindwing underside is replaced with grey-black and the cryptic mottled markings are black rather than brown. The second record is from Gipsy Point where I have bred both sexes from larvae found on creeping mistletoe, *Mullerina eucalyptoides* (DC.) B.A. Barlow; one male 16.xi.1990, three females - 21-25.xi.1990.

Jalmenus evagoras evagoras (Donovan)

This species is common throughout eastern Victoria, where the usual food plant is *Acacia mearnsii* De Wild. However in 1987 I found a single colony near Mt Raymond, east of Orbost, feeding on *Acacia longifolia* (Andr.) Willd. Adults were observed each summer until 1991 when the clump of trees was badly damaged in a storm. *A. longifolia* has not been recorded as a food plant for this butterfly previously and adds to the substantial list provided by Braby (1988) and Hawkeswood (1981).

Jalmenus icilius Hewitson

In November 1990 I found a colony of this rare Victorian species at the northern end of the Grampians, near Mt Zero, with larvae and pupae on stunted bushes of *Acacia mearnsii*. Some pupae produced adults during the first two weeks of December, but the flight season would have extended into January as there were many small larvae. A colony near Kiata on *Acacia calamifolia* Sweet ex Lindley, known in the early 1950's, died out many years ago when the single food plant died (K. Hateley, *pers. comm.*). Another small colony on *A. pycnantha* Benth. at Lah-arum, west of the Grampians also appears to have died out. Another colony near Beaufort on *A. mearnsii* which was strong in December 1982 disappeared when the roadside trees on which it existed were felled. Douglas and Braby (1992) record a recently discovered colony on *A. deanei* (R. Baker) Welch *et al.* near Kingower. *A. mearnsii* has not been recorded previously as a food plant, however Haase (1900) listed *A. decurrens* from Gisborne which was probably *A. mearnsii*.

Candalides consimilis goodingi (Tindale)

I took one male and noted several others at Donald Knob, west of Cann River, on 30.x.1990 and caught a newly-emerged female on *Buddleia* at

Gipsy Point on 28.i.1991. Hunting (1980b) has recorded the species at Genoa Peak, near Mallacoota.

Theclinesstes sulphitius (Miskin)

On 31.i.1988 I discovered a colony of this small species at Gipsy Point, with both sexes on the wing. Burns (1947) recorded this species from Wingan Inlet, about 35 km south-west, and in the 1960's Gooding (*pers. comm.*) found it at Manns Beach, about 13 km SE of Yarram.

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